



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

For Immediate Release:
December 4, 2008

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Barrett to Hear Recommendations on Foreclosure Prevention
Mayor seeks solutions to limit mortgage crisis impact on Milwaukee neighborhoods, fill in gaps left by federal action

Mayor Tom Barrett today will accept recommendations from the Milwaukee Foreclosure Partnership Initiative (MFPI) at a meeting of the group this afternoon at 2:00 p.m. at Convent Hill, 455 E. Ogden.

Barrett started the action-oriented, public-private partnership this fall to formalize efforts that began two years ago when Milwaukee started to see an increase in foreclosures as a result of the national mortgage crisis. The group of about 120 participants is headed up by chairs Kathryn Dunn of the Helen Bader Foundation and Attorney Steve Chernof with Godfrey Kahn.

Currently there are currently about 1701 bank-owned foreclosures in Milwaukee. Foreclosure filings are up 17% this year compared to last year. In fact, since the MFPI was convened, there has been an average of 118 filings per week.

Some of the workgroup recommendations in the three areas of Prevention, Intervention and Stabilization include:

- Develop a permanent public/private housing consortium to maintain sustainable Milwaukee neighborhoods
- Create a Court-appointed mediation program to divert foreclosures into loan modifications
- Improve consumer outreach by continuing foreclosure intervention events
- Address shortfall of local foreclosure intervention counselors
- Create a website with local resources to serve homeowners facing foreclosure, as well as investors, neighborhood organizations and other partner organizations
- Coordinate safety efforts between Milwaukee Police and Fire Departments, neighborhood organizations and homeowners
- Strategies for the acquisition and disposition of foreclosed properties

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December 4, 2008

Several of the recommendations the group will present today are already underway. Other recommendations being presented will require legislative action and still others have yet to be funded. The recommendations that do not fall within the guidelines for use of the \$9.2 million in federal foreclosure assistance funds will require additional resources and Barrett is expected to work with partnership members to identify appropriate sources of funds.

“I want to thank the members of the MFPI for their countless hours of work on this issue,” said Mayor Barrett. “I set an aggressive timeframe for action on this critical effort and the workgroup chairs and members are to be commended for their swift work. While today is the culmination of a great deal of work, it is also the beginning. Knowing we have the strong partners we do, I am confident that significant progress can be made addressing the impact foreclosures are having on our neighborhoods and residents.”

Barrett especially thanks Co-chairs Dunn and Chernof and workgroup chairs Kristi Luzar from UEDA, Dan Idzilowski from Marquette University and Pam Anderson from US Bank.

A complete summary of the recommendations will be available on the City's website at www.milwaukee.gov